

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Saturday, October 26. 1705.

WHILE some People express their ignorant, but friendly Concern for me, on the Account of the Boldness and Presumption I am guilty of, in addressing this Paper to our Representatives in Parliament; *Behold I go on* to encrease that supposed Crime, by yet a farther serious Address to the same Authority, who are only capable of redressing the Publick Grievances of the People of *England*, and to settle and reconcile this Nation.

Plots and Contrivances against the Crown and Dignity of the Sovereign seldom stand alone, or subsist upon themselves; but either have a Dependence upon, or are complicated with yet farther Mischiefs design'd for the People, as the Consequences of the former; and thus in the detestable Conspiracy the last of these Papers laid an Abstract of before your Honourable Assembly, the Sundry parts of the deep-laid Design, appear but too plain, and are as naturally deduced from the Premises, as they were visible in the subsequent Behaviour of the Conspirators themselves; and this I humbly

crave leave to abridge in its plain and undeniable Circumstances, and lay it at the feet of the Honourable the Commons of *England* assembled in Parliament; not doubting but they will think it of Consequence great enough to take into their most serious Consideration.

No sooner had this Party advanc'd the horrid Notion, as it was Circumstanc'd, of a Queen by Succession, Right Line, &c. and thought themselves secure of the Project taking root in the Nation; but they join'd in a General Cry against *Protestant Dissenters*, openly reviling them, publicly threatening them, and as much as possible to render them odious in the Eyes both of the Government and their fellow Subjects; as Persons dangerous to the *first*, and uneasy to the *last*; these People at the same time behaving themselves Peaceably, Loyally and Unblamable either with respect to Commerce, Law or Allegiance.

And yet I should not give your Honourable Assembly the least trouble of Reflecting on the Behaviour of these Gentlemen,

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men, had they only shown their Teeth in Railing at, Buffooning, and with their Impotent Threatning, as they Thought, rettying the *Dissenters*; had there not appear'd a double Design in it against the Queen's Majesty her self, and against the Publick Peace of the Nation; things no True *Englisb* Subject can patiently submit to, or be easie under.

And that I may not be thought guilty of charging these Gentlemen by the same Method they have used us with, I mean by *Innuendo*; I humbly crave leave to appeal to your Honours most equal and unerring Judgment—Whether accusing the *Protestant Dissenters* in this Nation, of Caballing and Associating against the Government, could have any other real Design, than to widen that Breach between the Church of *England*, and her Dissenting Brethren, which, so the *Mortification of the Nations Enemies*, was so lately closed, and we had Hopes was entirely Healed, by a Legal and Parliamentary Tolleration—That the widening this Breach must be purely malicious, is also plain, since none of that Party durst ever appear to any Accusation of the *Dissenters* in General, or any of them in Particular, or durst attempt to prove either before the Honourable House, or any of her Majesty's Courts of Justice, the least Disloyalty or Disaffection, either in Principle or Practice, among the whole Body of the *Dissenters* thus villified, threatned, and ill treated.

That this therefore must be a malicious Design, not against the *Dissenters* only, as such; but against the Publick Peace of the Nation, I most humbly represent to the Consideration of your Honourable Assembly, as a thing very well worth your Regard; all the Interruption of that good Understanding which was happily begun among Men of Piety and Charity of all Perswasions by the Tolleration, being so many Steps to the Ruin of both Religion and Civil Liberty, embroyling us in Intestine Feuds, and laying both Sides open to the Malice and Force of both Foreign and Domestick Invasions.

Nor is this the only Testimony of the wicked Attempts of a Party of Men, to whom the Nation's Peace is so Irksome, and the

Approaches of it so terrible But her Majesty, who as the Common Patronness of her Subjects Welfare, has on all Occasions press'd us to Peace and Union, Submission to the Laws, and Universal Catholick Charity, as the best means to preserve the Publick Tranquillity, has thereby incur'd the Hate and Irreconcilable Aversion of this Party, That they have not refrain'd in a most villainous and insolent Manner to affront their Sovereign, and in variety of Insolent Lampeons to reproach her Majesty with Disaffection to Deserting and being wean'd from the Church.

At the same that her Majesty, to ease the Minds of all her Subjects, and particularly of those who seem'd allarm'd at the strange and unuual Clamour of the Party against the Tolleration, had publicly declar'd her Pious and Gracious Resolutions to preserve it to the *Dissenters*. One of the furious Spreaders of Sedition, had the Face even in a Pulpit of the Church of *England*, to declare, That no Man could be a True Friend to the Church of *England*, that did not lift up a Standard of Defiance against all the *Dissenters*, tho' then Tollerated by the Law of *England*.

And I cannot but humbly represent to your Honours Consideration, how that tho' this Doctrine was immediately pointed at the Queen, who had promised to preserve the Tolleration, whose Promise the same Person horribly expounds to be inconsistent with her Majesty's former Engagements to preserve the Church; yet that this unexampled Insolence receiv'd a farther Sanction, by being spread over the whole Nation, with an *Imprimatur* or Licence and Approbation from the whole University of *Oxford*, under the Signature of the Vice-Chancellor of that University.

Your Honours cannot but with Indignation look back upon the Act of Tolleration being branded as a Plot against the Church; Censur'd in the Pulpit, and her Majesty branded by the Authority of a University, with being no Friend to the Church of *England*, of whose Faith she is by Title, *The Royal Defender*, and has been all her days a constant and Pious Professor.

These things, 'tis hoped, may be sufficient to prove, That the Grand Design of this Implacable

Implacable Party of Men, is to separate and divide this Miserable Nation, and to exasperate and Provoke the People, one against another; not to bring over *Dissenters* to a Conformity to the Church, but to make them more and more averse to that Union of Charity, which good Men thought was happily begun in this Nation.

But as if it was not already plain enough, to every Common Understanding, these People have farther Testifi'd the Truth of their Design, in the Discoveries they make, of their extraordinary Rage at their Disappointment; and that finding Her Majesty convinc'd of the Necessity, as well as Advantages of Publick Peace; and a general good Understanding among all her Subjects, and resolute in pursuing it, by the Wise and Prudent Methods of Christian Moderation and Charity; they have not been afraid with an Unparallel'd Presumption to Abuse the Queen; and Reproach Her Majesty's Faithful Ministers of State, with the Odious Terms, of *Betrayers of the Church*, and *Erectors of a Treacherous Moderation*; and this want of Manners, is farther back'd, with most Horrid and Insolent Libels against the Government; wherein assuming to speak in the Person of the Church of *England*, they Insult the Ministers of State, and Vilely Threaten, both Her Majesty and the Government with *Resentments, Force of Arms, and Rebellion*. Memorial, Page 12.

As no Age can Parallel these things, nor no History Record a time, when any Prince, Parliament or Nation could suffer, without due Resentment, such Insolences as these; it cannot be doubted, but your Honourable Assembly will take due Notice, both of these Persons and of all their Abettors, in such manner, as shall best Conduce, to the Suppressing the like Insolences, and Convincing the Nation, that the People of *England*, cannot patiently see their Sovereign abused, in so gross a Manner; nor the Nations Peace so Notoriously Assaulted, without taking Cognizance of it, and bringing the Guilty Persons to such just Punishment, as the Case deserves.

This Humble Application, is therefore made to your Honours, not only, if possible to move, the taking these things into Consideration; but also to Testifie that those

of Her Majesty's Good Subjects, Villainously aspers'd and accus'd to Her Majesty, are not only not afraid, but very desirous to have the Case Examind; who are Her Majesty's most Peaceable Subjects, and who not; and to have the Honour of a Testimony from your Assembly; that they have been Scandalously, and Causelessly Slander'd, when they have been Charg'd, with having done anything, to stand in need of an Indemnity from the Government, and with their having been willing, to Purchase that Indemnity, with the Surrender of all their Civil Privileges, and with incapacitating themselves, for the Service of their Sovereign, and their Country. Memorial, Page 2.

The *Dissenters*, May it please your Honourable House, to bear with that Freedom, are, and ever since the Revolution, have always been ready, to appeal to the Laws of this Land, for their Defence; both with Respect to their Civil, as well Religious Rights; and saving their Allegiance and Duty to Her Majesty and the Government, stand in need of no Indemnity or Pardon on any account whatsoever, having been Conscious of no Crime against, nor standing Legally Accused of any; but are very free to be Convened, before any of Her Majesty's Courts of Justice, there to Answer for their Behaviour, and to suffer the Determination of Justice, according to the Laws of their Country; and they humbly depend upon the Justice of this Honourable Assembly, that they shall not be Oppress'd, by any Force or Contrivance, of Unreasonable and Furious Men; the Queen, the Laws, and your Honourable House, being satisfi'd in their Peaceable and Honest Behaviour.

Nor is this Humour of the Party, less Insolent to Her Majesty, and Disloyal in its Nature, than it is Malicious against Her Majesty's Peaceable Subjects, the *Dissenters*; in that they continue to strike at the Legal Establishment of the *Dissenters* Liberty, and Brand all that are against them, with being ill Friends to the Church; Stiling the Temper and Conduct of the Government, a Treacherous Moderation. Memorial, Page ..., at the same time, that Her Majesty had Declar'd her Resolution, to preserve

preserve the *Tolleration*, to Protect the *Dissenters*, and to promote, as far as possible, the General Union of all her Protestant Subjects.

That these things are Practis'd, not with a Christian Design, to reduce this Nation to a general Uniformity in the Worship of God, or from any True Zeal for the Church of *England*, as Establish'd by Law; either to Confirm her present Professors, in their Religious Adherence to her Doctrine, or to encrease the numbers of her Members, by bringing over the *Dissenters* to her Worship; shall farther appear to this Honourable Assembly, when the subsequent Branches of this Paper, shall lay before you, a yet more Subterranean Work of Hell; which this same Party of Men, have blindly made themselves the Agents of, and which they eagerly pursue, to the Destruction, not of the Protestant *Dissenters* only, but primarily, and directly to blow up and overthrow the Church of *England* it self, as now Establish'd; a Design so Horrid, so deeply contriv'd, and yet so barefac'dly broach'd, and set on foot in this Protestant Nation, that no true Protestant, but must blush at the Relation, and your Honourable Assembly, cannot but receive the Account of, with the utmost Indignation.

The *Dissenters*, may it please your Honourable Assembly to observe, will not appear, to be so much peculiarly struck at, as the Protestant Religion, and the Reformation in general; and 'tis no small Consolation, that the Protestant Subjects of this Nation, who are in some few things *Dissenters*, from the Establish'd Church, find the same People and Party, who are openly and professedly their Enemies; at the same time, Declaring themselves against the Protestant Religion in general; and bent to Destroy, the Establish'd Reformation in this Kingdom.

That this is Matter of Fact, the Author of this, undertakes to demonstrate, in the Process of this Humble Address; and doubts not, but the Truth of the General. Illustrated by the Horrid Particulars, will awaken the House, and by Consequence the whole Nation; particularly to see, how a Universal Cry against the *Dissenters*, has been all along made a Mask and, to Con-

ceal an Infernal Conspiracy, against the Protestant Religion in general; the Reformation Establish'd in these Nations, and the Church of *England* in particular; which nothing can prevent, but that general Unanimity, not of your Assembly only, but of the whole Nation; that Christian Temper, Charity, Moderation, and Forbearance, which the Land Mourns for, which Her Majesty has so often press'd us to, and which all considering Christians pray for; and I am not to doubt, but the Representing this, to this Assembly, will from the Infinite Concern it is of, to the whole Kingdom, be a full Justification of the Relator, both to this Honourable Assembly, and to the whole Nation.

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